THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) As per information received from various Ministries/Departments the accruals to the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) during 2007-08 is Rs. 1897.49 crore and during 2008-09 is Rs. 1449.42 crore.

(b) All the Central Ministries/Departments, excluding those exempted, have to earmark at least 10% of their GBS every year for the North Eastern Region. The unspent balance of the 10% GBS earmarked for North East Region of these Ministries/Departments does not lapse but automatically gets transferred to the Central Pool of Resources called Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources.

(c) Upto 31.10.2009, total 1071 projects at an estimated cost of Rs.8249.25 crore have been sanctioned and Rs.5969.90 crore released to the North Eastern States from NLCPR scheme. The State-wise percentage of the approved projects andfunds released for their implementation is given in the following Table.

State	No. of Projects	Approved Cost		Funds Released
		Amount	%	
Arunachal Pradesh	111	1144.01	13.87	740.95
Assam	317	I 2102.70	25.49	1523.38
Manipur	113	981.67	11.90	655.37
Meghalaya	67	600.84	7.28	408.40
Mizoram	84	656.52	7.96	531.49
Nagaland	112	1011.47	12.26	734.26
Sikkim	197	664.84	8.06	505.32
Tripura	66	1065.79	12.92	852.27
Common to NER	4	21.41	0.26	18.46
Total	1071	8249.25	100.00	5969.90

(d) To improve the monitoring of projects the review meetings with the State government officers are arranged periodically. The officers of the Ministry of DoNER also make field visits to review and inspect the projects. Further, the earlier Guidelines of NLCPR were studied and amended in the interest of expeditious implementation of projects.

Ganga river basin authority

2639. DR. (SHR1MATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has set up the Ganga River Basin Authority, which is an inter-State and Centre group;

(b) if so, the details of its composition and objectives;

(c) whether any meeting of the said Authority have been held; and

(d) if so, what has been the outcome of these meetings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The Central Government by a Notification dated 20.02,2009, has set up the 'National Ganga River Basin Authority' (NGRBA) as an empowered planning, financing, monitoring and coordinating authority for the Ganga River, in exercise of the powers conferred under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The Prime Minister is the *ex-officio* Chairperson of the Authority, and it has as its members, the Union Ministers, concerned, and the Chief Ministers of the States through which Ganga flows, *viz.*, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, besides experts. The functions of the Authority include all measures necessary for planning and execution of programmes for abatement of pollution and conservation of the river Ganga. The first meeting of the NGRBA was held on 5th October 2009. It was resolved that by the year 2020, it will be ensured that no untreated municipal sewage or industrial effluent flows into Ganga. The investment required to create the necessary treatment and sewerage infrastructure will be shared suitably between Centre and States after consultation with the States, Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission.

Protection of forest areas

2640. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the methods adopted by Government to demarcate the forest areas to make them out of bound for mining, or protect them against illegal mining;

(b) whether Government has carried out any fresh forest survey to determine how much success has been achieved in plantation of trees over the years; and

(c) what is the area under the green cover at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The forest areas are normally demarcated by erecting permanent boundary pillars at appropriate points to segregate them from other areas. However, additional precaution is taken while according approval for mining in forest areas by invariably inserting following conditions:

i. The project area shall be demarcated on ground at the project cost, using four feet high RCC pillars, with each pillar inscribed with the serial number, forward and backward bearings and distance between two adjacent pillars.

ii. Fencing, protection and regeneration of the safety zone area (7.5 metre strip all along the outer boundary of the mining lease area) shall be done at the project cost.

(b) The information is being collected from different sources and will be laid on the table of the House after collection and compilation of the same.